

# STOCK PRICES SHOW SLIGHT IMPROVEMENT

Majority of Securities on the List Exhibit Strength After the Initial Transactions on the Market.

Trading Sentiment More Cheerful in Expectation of Favorable Bank Statement and Return of Currency.

NEW YORK, Dec. 13.—The stock market held steady this morning on a light volume of business, prior to the publication of the bank statement. It seemed to be the common impression that the statement would make a fairly favorable exhibit, inasmuch as a very considerable reduction in loans was commonly looked for.

Sentiment had a distinctly more cheerful hue, chiefly because of the same circumstance which was the main cause of yesterday's sharp rally in the market, namely, the evidence that currency is finally beginning to return to this point from the agricultural sections. There was little further discussion of the Venezuelan situation.

American stocks were shown at material gains in the London market, and there were moderate purchases for foreign account continued here.

Strong and active business of the railway line were St. Paul, Louisville and Nashville, Missouri Pacific, and Pennsylvania. Evansville and Terre Haute scored a further sharp advance on a repetition of the reports recently current that the control of the road was about to change hands.

Manhattan Railway was the active feature of the local traction group, and after showing pressure at the opening of business, the stock rallied sharply. Brooklyn Rapid Transit was firm.

The United States Steel stocks continued very active and were steady, around yesterday's final levels. There were no movements of interest in the miscellaneous stocks apart from an extensive advance in American Smelting and Refining. Amalgamated Copper was fairly active, but moved within small limits. Western Union was steady.

In respect, both of activity and in the small fluctuations in prices, the trading presented a sharp contrast with yesterday's turbulent dealings.

The bank statement proved to be fairly well in line with the general expectations, except that the decrease in the loan account, which amounted to only \$2,065,000, fell somewhat below general estimates. Actual cash decreased \$3,095,000, which, together with the curtailment in the loan account, was approximately reflected in the item of deposits, which decreased \$6,031,000. In consequence, surplus reserves decreased \$1,585,000, which leaves the banks' cash holdings at \$3,887,000 in excess of the lawful requirements.

Following were the stock quotations at 1:30 p. m.:

	Open.	High	Low	1 P. M.
Amal. Copper.....	55 3/4	56	55 1/2	55 1/2
Amer. Sugar.....	120 1/2	120 3/4	119 3/4	119 3/4
Atchafson.....	80 1/2	80 3/4	79 3/4	79 3/4
Balt. & Ohio.....	95 3/4	95 3/4	94 1/2	94 1/2
Brook. Rap. Tr.....	62 1/2	63	61 1/2	61 1/2
Ches. & Ohio.....	45	45	44 1/2	44 1/2
C. M. St. P.....	169 3/4	170 1/4	168 1/2	168 1/2
Eric.....	30 3/4	31	30	30
Ind. & Wash.....	121 1/2	121 1/2	120 3/4	120 3/4
Manitoba.....	14	14 1/2	13 3/4	13 3/4
Met. St. Ry.....	136 3/4	137 1/2	136 1/2	137
Mo. Pac.....	102 3/4	103 1/2	102 1/2	102 1/2
New York Cen.....	151 1/2	151 1/2	149 1/2	150
Nor. & West.....	69 1/2	69 3/4	69	69
Pennsylvania.....	122 1/2	123 1/2	121 1/2	121 1/2
Reading.....	77 1/2	78 1/2	76 1/2	76 1/2
Rock Island.....	38 1/2	39	37 1/2	37 1/2
Rock Island p.....	78 3/4	80	77 1/2	78
South. Pac.....	59	59 1/2	58 1/2	58
South Ry.....	20	20	20 1/2	20 1/2
South Ry. pf.....	90 1/2	90 1/2	90 1/2	90 1/2